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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

May 17, 1994

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
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Do Not Know

What Action Taken
10/6/96
Ridley

TO: Acting Secretary Tarnoff
THROUGH: G - Mr. Wirth
FROM: DRL - John Shattuck *JS*
IO - Douglas J. Bennet *DB*
SUBJECT: UN Human Rights Commission Special Session
on Rwanda

SUMMARY

At the May 24-25 Special Session of the UNHRC on Rwanda, our goal is to obtain a resolution that condemns the gross human rights violations, establishes a Special Rapporteur, calls for the deployment of human rights monitors and holds individuals accountable for their actions. Geraldine Ferraro, head of the U.S. delegation to the UNHRC, will attend the Session.

DISCUSSION

The UNHRC, meeting in special session May 24-25, will hear the report of UN Human Rights High Commissioner Ayala Lasso, who returned Sunday from a visit to Rwanda and neighboring countries. We expect Ayala Lasso's recommendations to track closely with our own objectives at the Session:

- A condemnation of gross human rights violations;
- The naming of a UNHRC Special Rapporteur to work with a team of existing thematic rapporteurs (executions, disappearances, etc.);
- A call for the deployment of human rights monitors to investigate and document human rights violations; and
- The need to hold individuals accountable for their actions.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDEFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 01 JUL 2004 200301102

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We believe that assurances to both sides that an impartial process will be established to investigate human rights violations will be an important factor in obtaining agreement to a cease-fire. With a cease-fire in place, or as areas of the country become secure, a Special Rapporteur and monitors appointed by the Chairman of the UNHRC or the High Commissioner for Human Rights could enter the country to investigate and document human rights violations, and, through their presence, perhaps deter further killings.

The information collected would be presented in the form of a report by the Special Rapporteur to the appropriate UN bodies. With regard to accountability, we believe that any further steps, such as the establishment of a mechanism to consider allegations against individuals, should be addressed in negotiations between Rwandan parties within the Arusha Process.

The ability of the Special Rapporteur and monitors to do their work will depend on the consent of the Rwandan parties, but both sides have indicated a desire that human rights violators be held accountable. The success of the monitoring effort is also contingent upon their ability to operate throughout the country. Security and funding for the monitoring operation will be a key subject for consideration. Security for the monitors will be affected by the success of UN efforts to introduce a peacekeeping operation. There must be close coordination between what happens in New York at the Security Council and the UNHRC Session in Geneva. Adequate funding may depend on voluntary contributions by governments; we are looking into the possibility of a voluntary USG contribution.

Thus far, the African members of the UNHRC have not taken the initiative on Rwanda (which is why Canada ended up making the formal call to convene the Commission). They are probably apprehensive about UNHRC scrutiny which could in the future be directed at other African nations. We are encouraging the Canadians to fully involve them in planning for the session.

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